

# 1. Introduction

In August 2000, the Clinton Administration directed the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to prepare a report that would recommend how best to respond to the year's severe wildland fires, reduce the impacts of such wildland fires on rural communities, and ensure sufficient firefighting resources in the future. The report, titled "Managing the Impacts of Wildfire on Communities and the Environment: A Report to the President in Response to the Wildfires of 2000," is called The National Fire Plan for short. In August 2001, a comprehensive strategy was released that involved the Governors of Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon, the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior with the "Implementation Plan" which was signed May 23, 2003. This plan is part of Idaho's Statewide Implementation Strategy for the National Fire Plan.

Wildland fires are a part of the natural ecological cycle of forest ecosystems. However, as humans encroach on these forests the changes can result in catastrophic disaster, as was seen in 2003 when 3,000 homes were destroyed by wildland fires. These interface areas between urban development and wildland are known as Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas. The National Fire Plan calls for reducing this risk through a variety of measures including the creation of local wildland urban interface fire mitigation plans. The Franklin County Fire District (FCFD) received a grant to prepare a Wildland Urban Interface Fire Mitigation Plan (WUIFMP) to identify actions and priorities for reducing wildland fire risk.

This plan is the culmination of over four months of intensive work conducted by the FCFD Wildland Urban Interface Fire Mitigation Planning Committee and their consultant. The plan includes a variety of measures designed to reduce the impact of wildland fires.

This plan is divided into sections, beginning with an executive summary of the fire hazards, mitigation strategies for goal implementation, and actions items for quick reference, followed by this brief introduction. A profile of Franklin County is used for a broader understanding of the problems, hazards and risks that were identified during the planning process. Citizen involvement was utilized during the problem, hazard and risk identification, and goal setting portions.

Goals and actions needed to implement this plan are listed with suggestions for who should complete the action, when it should be completed and the possible resources for completing the action. The plan also states how and when it is to be updated. These sections are followed by technical information and references. Finally, there are a series of appendices describing various data collected during the process.

No plan is complete until it is implemented. This document describes what actions need to take place over the next several years to help reduce the damages caused by wildfire in the wildland urban interface. Proposed mitigation plan maintenance will be biennial, with a total review every four years. Biennial review of the mitigation recommendations will be necessary as various projects or tasks are accomplished and areas at-risk decline. However, it is up to the community to ensure that these actions are taken.